

From: Shanan Levin
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The "revised proposed final judgement" is NOT a valid or appropriate solution to the findings of fact regarding Microsoft's monopolistic business practices. An enforcement authority, a technical committee and a single Microsoft internal compliance officer (that has no real power to change anything) is not a just/fair solution to the continuing Microsoft monopoly. The aforementioned entities will have no real power, other than to slap Microsoft on the wrist for competing unfairly. None of the changes mentioned in the revised proposal force Microsoft to compete in the free market, simply because they have become so widespread and ubiquitous. Over time, some of the changes called for in the revised proposal may help loosen Microsoft's monopolistic stranglehold on the market, but the amount of time is unknown. The only real way to encourage and bring healthy competition back to the market today is to force the Microsoft policy / operation changes to include not just future products/services, but to include the products and services (ie. proprietary protocols) that helped them achieve the massive control over the (PC and software and services) market in the first place. Force existing and future Microsoft products to interoperate with non-Microsoft products using open, standard documented protocols. Only then can a real change be made to the existing marketplace, rather than giving Microsoft ample time to find other ways of controlling and growing around the revised proposed final judgement.

Shanan Levin

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